

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 00160 140745Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5616
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0160

USIA FOR IAA, INA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, CD
SUBJECT: AP CORRESPONDENT DOLDSMITH MEETS LIBYAN AMBASSADOR
IN NDJAMENA; IS REFUSED AUDIENCE AT FRENCH EMBASSY

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS AFRICA CORRESPONDENT MIKE GOLDSMITH
WAS SOUGHT OUT BY LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO CHAD DURING HIS THREE
DAY STAY IN NDJAMENA FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION AT LIBYAN
EMBASSY ATTENDED ONLY BY GOLDSMITH, LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND
AFP CORRESPONDENT IN NDJAMENA.

2. ACCORDING TO GOLDSMITH, IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AFTER
CONVERSATION, BOTH LOBBY OF LIBYAN EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR'S
OFFICE DISPLAYED MAPS OF AFRICA "LIBYAN-VERSION" WHICH
DENOTED CHAD AOUZOU STRIP AND PARTS OF ALGERIA AND NIGER
AS LIBYAN TERRITORY. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TOLD GOLDSMITH
THIS LAND WAS "NON-NEGOTIABLE" AND THAT THERE WERE NO
CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER BY WHICH LIBYA WOULD CONCEDE THAT
PARTICULAR LAND AS BEING ANYTHING OTHER THAN LIBYAN TERRITORY.

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3. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR ALSO SHOWED GOLDSMITH A MOLOTOV COCK-
TAIL THAT HE SAID WAS TAKEN FROM OFF OF HIS CAR BY HIS SECURITY
GUARD ON JANUARY 5. HE ALSO SAID THAT HIS CAR HAS BEEN
STONED AND SHOT AT ON TWO OCCASIONS AND THAT LIBYANS IN CHAD
ARE CONSTANTLY BEING HARRASSED BY GOC AUTHORITIES AND
CITIZENS.

4. AMBASSADOR REPROACHED GOC FOR HAVING CLOSED LIBYAN-ARAB BANK, LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER IN NDJAMENA (LATTER WAS SAID BY GOC TSD-VE BEEN MAIL DROP FOR REBEL SUPPORTERS IN NDJAMENA.

5. ACCORDING TO GOLDSMITH, AMBASSADOR WAS RELAXED AND PLEASANT THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION WHICH LASTED SOME THIRTY MINUTES.

6. ADDITIONAL NOTE OF INTEREST: FRENCH EMBASSY REFUSED TO RECEIVE GOLDSMITH. RATIONALE WAS THAT THE AMBASSADOR WANTED TO SEE GOLDSMITH PERSONALLY AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE HIM, BUT WAS TOO BUSY TO SEE HIM AND SINCE HE WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE HIM, HE WOULD PREFER THAT NOBODY SEE VOGJSMITH. GOLDSMITH SAID THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN TWENTY YEARS OF COVERING FRANCOPHONE AFRICA THAT HE WAS REFUSED BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY, CALLING THE REFUSAL "DISCOURTEOUS" AND "UNPROFESSIONAL." GOLDSMITH THINKS REFUSAL DUE TO FRENCH DESIRE NOT TO ANGER BOKASSA, WITH WHOM GOLDSMITH HAD SOME PROBLEMS (TO PUT IT MILDLY) LAST SUMMER.

7. FOR USIA: WOULD APPRECIATE MONITORING NEWS FOR GOLDSMITH ARTICLE ON CHAD.BRADFORD

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